United Nations A/AC.182/2016/L.9

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
19 February 2016

Original: English

Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
16-24 February 2016

Draft report

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IV. *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*

1. During the general exchange of views held at the 281st and 282nd meetings of the Special Committee, on 16 and 17 February 2016, delegations commended the continuing efforts of the Secretariat to update the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and to eliminate the backlog in their preparation. The significance of the two publications as sources of reference and effective means to maintain the institutional memory of the Organization, as well as their importance in the dissemination of the work of the Organization, were recalled. Several delegations emphasized the need to eliminate the backlog with regard to volume III of the *Repertory*.

2. Delegations expressed appreciation to those Member States that had contributed to the two trust funds established for the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*, which had facilitated the progress in eliminating the backlog with regard to those publications, and encouraged Member States to make additional contributions.

3. At its 3rd meeting, the Working Group of the Whole was informed by representatives of the Secretariat about the status of the preparation of the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*.

4. Concerning the status of the *Repertory*, it was reported that research and drafting of studies on Articles 52 and 54 for volume III of Supplements 7 to 9 (1985-1999) had been completed by the Faculty of Law of the University of Ottawa. Studies on Articles 33(1) and 53 for Supplements 7 to 9 had also been prepared and were under review. Progress had been made on the studies on Articles 41, 52 and 54 for Supplement 10 (2000-2009) and work had begun on Supplement 11 (2010-2015), particularly on Article 13(1)(a). On the website of the *Repertory*

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43 completed volumes, together with advance versions of studies under review, could be searched through the website's full-text search function.

5. Cooperation with the University of Ottawa had continued, resulting in the completion of several studies. It was anticipated that the well-established cooperation with Columbia University would resume in the near future. The Secretariat was also assisted by the work of interns. The Secretariat reiterated its appeal, previously made in the Sixth Committee, that delegations convey expressions of interest by academic institutions for possible cooperation on the *Repertory*. To date, the appeal had resulted in contact with two academic institutions in the Asia-Pacific region.

6. Since the establishment of the trust fund in 2005, more than $136,000 had been donated, not including donations made in 2016. After the use of part of the funds for the preparation of *Repertory* studies, approximately $41,800 remained available in the trust fund.

7. With regard to the *Repertoire*, it was pointed out that, in the past year, the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch of the Security Council Affairs Division had worked on Supplements 18 and 19, covering the period from 2012 to 2015.

8. With the exception of two parts, the entire volume of Supplement 18, covering the years 2012 and 2013, had been completed and had been made available electronically in an advance version on the Security Council website. The groundwork for Supplement 19, covering 2014 and 2015, had been carried out systematically over the past two years by recording the most contemporary practice of the Council in an internal database and compiling the relevant documentation. Several parts of that Supplement would be made available on the website in the second half of 2016. Progress on the work on Supplement 19 would depend on the availability of resources. Work was also continuing on translating the *Repertoire* into all the official languages and publishing the completed Supplements covering the period from 1993 to 2001. Supplement 16 had been made available in print in March 2015.

9. It was also emphasized that, in addition to electronic versions of the *Repertoire*, the Security Council website contained, inter alia, tables and graphs providing an overview of historical trends relating to the work of the Council, highlights of Council practice for 2015 and tables and graphs showing components of the mandates of current peacekeeping and political missions, which allowed for comparison of mandates over time and across missions. The website's search function had been further updated to make it more user-friendly, reliable, accurate and effective.

10. The Branch had responded to numerous requests for information relating to the current and past practice of the Council and its subsidiary organs. Aside from its work on the *Repertoire*, it had also eliminated the remaining backlog in the preparation of volume III of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, which was available on the *Repertory* website. It was further emphasized that the preparation and publication of the *Repertoire* continued to rely on voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund and the sponsorship of associate experts.

11. Following the reports by representatives of the Secretariat, several delegations sought clarification regarding certain specific studies and the modalities of

cooperation with academic institutions. The Secretariat was encouraged to expand its cooperation with such institutions as well as to expand use of the internship programme, ensuring equitable geographical representation of researchers and students working on the studies. Some delegations also requested the Secretariat to expedite the preparation of translations and paper copies of the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*. The Secretariat indicated that it would welcome expressions of interest for cooperation on the *Repertory* by academic institutions in all regions. It emphasized that the Secretariat bore final responsibility for the quality of all studies, which were subject to extensive review by the relevant departments of the Secretariat.